

Economic Impacts of Blockades & Invoking Emergencies Act - Quotes & Data Tracker (February 23, 2022)

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Attachments: Emergency Act Tracker.docx (28.13 kB)

Hello Chrystia,

Please find below a compilation of quotes and relevant data points on the economic impact of the convoy blockades, as well as on the invocation of the Emergencies Act.

Should you have any specific requests for further information related to any of the below content, please let me know!

Updates -

Data on Impact

In Ottawa

Protests have severely hurt businesses and workers who were already among the most impacted by COVID restrictions. The Retail Council of Canada estimates that there are losses of **\$3 million per day** in sales at the Rideau Centre mall alone (approximately \$72M in total). (February 10, 2022 – [CBC News](#)). Meanwhile, according to Armine Yalnizyan, \$11 million a day was lost in wages of the workers from throughout the Ottawa-Gatineau region. For 24 days, the total is \$264 million in lost wages (February 23, 2022 – [Toronto Star Op-Ed](#)).

The more than three-week occupation of downtown Ottawa is costing the city more than \$30 million, city council heard Wednesday morning. It was costing about \$1 million per day since it started on Jan. 28 — \$800,000 for additional police costs and another \$200,000 for city costs (February 23, 2022 – [City Council meeting](#)).

Border Blockades

Protesters at busy border crossings stalled billions of dollars of trade goods from crossing. As Paul Krugman notes, upwards of **\$300 million** worth of goods crosses the Ambassador Bridge alone each day (February 14 – [NYT](#)), about 25% of the value of all Canada-US goods trade. The auto sector was among the most impacted.

Approximately 40% of shipments crossing at the ambassador bridge include auto parts and related goods (February 15 – [CBC News](#)). Ford Motor, General Motors, Honda and Toyota curtailed production at several factories in Michigan and Ontario (February 10 – [NYT](#)), and such delays put upward pressure on inflation which, for the purchase of passenger vehicles, has already reached 5.2% year over year as of January (Statcan [table 18100004](#)).

As of February 22 -

Press Clippings and Validators

Peter Mackay (former Minister of National Defence & CPC leadership candidate) and Vernon White (Canadian Senator and former Chief of the Ottawa Police Service): “National security threats, which we are now facing, need to be led by our national security force, the RCMP, through the use of the Emergencies Act, which the federal government invoked Monday. They have the strength, intelligence, methods and capability that no single municipality can muster.” (February 14, 2022 – [National Post op-ed](#))

Tom Marazzo – Convoy Organizer: My bank accounts have been frozen, my credit cards cancelled, and mine and my wife’s credit score has significantly dropped. (February 19, 2022 – Press conference)

Canadian Trucking Alliance: “The Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA) applauds the Government of Canada’s use of the Emergencies Act to help end the blockades and make it very clear what the consequences are for blocking and impeding the movement of goods, people, and services along critical infrastructure (ports of entry) in Canada from a federal perspective... “These illegal blockades have had a detrimental impact on our members and customers’ businesses. These blockades have also had a very significant negative impact upon our professional driving community. CTA very much welcomes the Prime Minister’s leadership today in helping to bring an end to these illegal blockades,” said CTA president Stephen Laskowski. “Order must be restored to our borders and critical infrastructure that are being blockaded.”” (February 14, 2022 – [statement](#))

Graham Richardson, CTV - @GrahamCTV: “Some protesters have left because bank accounts have been frozen and families at home can’t access finances say police” (February 19, 2022 – [Twitter](#))

Michael Cooper, Member of Parliament for St. Albert-Edmonton: “Freedom of expression and the right to peacefully protest do not give any Canadian the license to break the law, to block vital transportation routes, and to hold the Canadian economy hostage. What this is about is the rule of

law...If the Liberals respect the rule of law, then they will enforce the rule of law, by calling in the RCMP and seeing an immediate end to these blockades....I call on Justin Trudeau to enforce the law and direct the RCMP to shut down these illegal blockades" (February 14, 2020 – [Twitter video](#))

Protest organizers among arrests as Ottawa blockade members defy orders to leave – Canadian Press: "A truck with the Calgary-based freight firm Load Safe pulled out late Thursday after his former employer warned that the driver was risking the entire company's future. Load Safe owner Rich Russell said in an interview the driver, an independent owner-operator on contract, had been advised repeatedly to leave the protest. "I have been encouraging him to leave for at least a week. I was getting threats from all over the place," he said. The driver refused to be interviewed as he readied his truck to depart Thursday. He pulled out to applause from a nearby crowd. Russell said while the driver owned the truck himself he had company insurance, which was putting the entire fleet of 35 owner-operators in jeopardy. "The only way you can get affordable insurance is for through a fleet program so he is on our insurance policy and his truck has to be plated and registered to us as well," Russell said. "We actually got notice from our insurance company this morning that they had been notified by the government that our policy could be potentially suspended and our bank accounts frozen. That would put me out of business. I have about 35 owner drivers and 25 employees. I have spent 45 years building this company." (February 18, 2022)"

Glen McGregor, CTV - @glen_mcgregor: "Interim Ottawa Police Chief Steve Bell says powers granted under Emergencies Act, plus Ontario and Ottawa states of emergency and existing law were all used today. "Without these authorities, we wouldn't have been able to do the work we are doing today."" (February 17, 2022 – [Press conference](#))

Ed Broadbent, former NDP Leader: "The Emergencies Act is not the War Measures Act. I can say that as someone who voted against the War Measures Act in 1970. And as someone who sought the creation of the Emergencies Act to replace it. Back in 1970, I was still a new Member of Parliament for Oshawa-Whitby and one of the great debates of my time in the House of Commons was over the invocation of the War Measures Act. Subsequently, I spent time as Leader working to amend the War Measures Act so, in the future, Canadians' civil liberties would be protected. I worked for the creation of the Emergencies Act, just as earlier I had worked to help create possibly the best Charter of Rights and Freedoms in the world...Compared to the War Measures Act, the Emergencies Act has reduced powers, added significant Parliamentary review, and was created in part to support and uphold the Charter...And this is one of the key reasons that the Emergencies Act is different: The Charter of Rights and Freedoms is not suspended. There is parliamentary oversight. And the Act would expire in its application after thirty days. From the beginning of this crisis, we've heard of the importance of following the money. With the use of the Act, the federal government is able to do just that. The powers in the Emergencies Act give authorities the means needed to stop any flow of funds that could have made the situation much worse. Such action has already taken place. (February 21, 2022 – [Op-ed](#))

Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters' Alberta Vice President, David MacLean: "We estimate that the impact on that is about \$600 million over the last two weeks, about \$44 million a day crosses the border in either direction...the impact on Alberta's economy is significant, both for manufacturers locally and for exporters. The U.S. is our largest market so it's critically important to get that blockade cleared...If manufacturers can't provide the materials needed in oil and gas then ultimately it's going to impact our biggest sector which is our energy industry... it's days not weeks before we start to see shutdowns." (February 11, 2022 – [Global News](#))

Joint letter from the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters and the Canadian Trucking Alliance joint letter to the federal government: “Our nation’s truck drivers, who are caught up in these blockades are at personal risk, and the manufacturers that rely on trucking services are being forced to shut down...We must restore Canada’s image as a good place to invest and do business and ensure our trucking and manufacturing industries continue to thrive.” (February 11, 2022 – [Global News](#))

Canadian Cattlemen’s Association President, Bob Lowe: “I believe it’s gone too far now. It’s starting to disrupt trade, it’s starting to disrupt commerce” (February 11, 2022 – [Global News](#))

Canadian Cattlemen’s Association President, Bob Lowe: “Maintaining a stable supply chain is critical to Canadian beef production. The evolving situation at the U.S.-Canada border and the transportation delays are resulting in major impacts for the entire beef supply chain” (February 3, 2022 – [Global News](#))

Governor of the Bank of Canada, Tiff Macklem: “If there were to be prolonged blockages at key entry points into Canada that could start to have a measurable impact on economic activity in Canada...we’ve already got a strained global supply chain. We don’t need this.” (February 9, 2022 – [Canadian Chamber of Commerce](#))

John D’Agnolo, president of a UNIFOR local that represents 1,700 employees at two Ford plants: “This has been a nightmare for the industry,” he said. “This is starting to hurt people’s families. The protesters want to end the mandates by shutting down the bridge, but it’s shutting everything else down.” (February 11, 2022 – [Globe & Mail](#))

Canadian Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Perrin Beatty and Canadian Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President, Policy and Government Relations, Mark Agnew: “This is not an academic exercise. It is the real deal. We are only about a week into the border blockades and already the ripple impacts are being felt. Doing nothing — and allowing the blockades to metastasize — will only cripple the economy and create a larger backlog to grapple with after the blockades end...Where the national interest is at stake, there is no room for petty partisanship or squabbling over jurisdiction...It would be an abdication of leadership to not use the tools available to ensure that our economy can function.” (February 11, 2022 – [Policy Magazine](#))

Retail Council of Canada's Director of Government Relations, John Graham: “We’re extremely frustrated...We’ve called on both the provincial government, the federal government [and] have communicated directly with RCMP as well, asking that they take more aggressive action to reopen smooth passage at that border.” (February 2, 2022 – [CBC](#))

Joint statement by the Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association: “Every day the industry is unable to move cattle, beef, or access feed puts the entire supply chain at risk...Blocking the transport of beef to cross border consumers is slowing down processing in Canada and creating a backlog at processing facilities, feedlots and farms and ranches...The obstruction is also blocking the growing critical supplies of feed that are needed across western Canada.” (February 3, 2022 – [CBC](#))

Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association Chairman, Greg Schmidt: “We rely pretty heavily on cross-border trade and if we shut off those avenues, it really has quite a trickle-down effect throughout our industry” (February 3, 2022 – [CBC](#))

Kasko Cattle Company's General Manager Ryan Kasko: "There is an economic cost to all of this. It's significant, it adds up and it's an accumulation to a whole bunch of challenges we've had over the last few months, and really the last two years. But it's getting more concentrated right now" (February 3, 2022 – [CBC](#))

- Coaldale, Alta. Riding of Lethbridge, Alberta. MP is Rachael Thomas.

Business Council of Canada President & CEO, Goldy Hyder: "We recognize the gravity of the federal government's decision to invoke the Emergencies Act. Having called on the federal government to show national leadership, we welcome this as a step toward ending illegal blockades across the country and upholding the rule of law." (February 14, 2022 – [Twitter](#))

Canadian Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Perrin Beatty: "When I brought in the Emergencies Act 35 years ago, I wished that it would never need to be used, but I knew that there would inevitably be future crises and that it was essential to protect the basic rights of Canadians even in an emergency." (February 14, 2022 – [Twitter](#))

Canadian Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Perrin Beatty: "Every single elected representative in the country has an obligation to put the country first. And has an obligation to make it clear that they believe in the rule of law." (February 14, 2022 – [Twitter](#))

Canadian Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Perrin Beatty: "The government's decision to invoke the Emergencies Act indicates how serious the threat to public safety and our economy from the ongoing blockades at various points in Canada has become." (February 14, 2022 – [Canadian Chamber of Commerce statement](#))

Canadian Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Perrin Beatty: "Every single hour that goes by, more damage is done to our economy, and the damage that's done to individual Canadians continues to grow... I'm struck first of all by the fact that this is damaging Canada's reputation globally." (February 11, 2022 – [CPAC interview](#))

Canadian Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Perrin Beatty: "The government shouldn't let this protest take our economy hostage" (February 11, 2022 – [BNN Bloomberg](#))

Ottawa Board of Trade: "To Our Elected Officials,

Our community members are fatigued, fearful and frustrated. After two years of restrictions, stress and uncertainty, the last three weeks of demonstrations and blockades have further threatened the economic, mental, and physical wellbeing of our citizens. We are in crisis.

You have sworn to govern with equality and integrity. You have a duty to ensure public safety, enforce laws and protect our institutions. There is no room for partisanship in the behaviour, the communications or decision making of our elected leaders. When you are divided, uncommunicative and use social media platforms to communicate your differences as public leaders, especially during a crisis, then public trust is eroded. When your citizens are suffering, and they witness anything less than radical collaboration, leadership, and transparency, then they have no choice but to pick a side in this divisive discourse. Divided or unified, you have a choice to make, and you set the tone for our community." (February 17, 2022 – [Open letter](#))

Premier Doug Ford: "The damage this is causing to our economy, to people's jobs and their livelihoods is totally unacceptable. We cannot let this continue... our right to make a political statement does not outweigh the right of hundreds of thousands of workers to earn their living...It does not outweigh our right to get food across our borders. Your right to make a political statement does not outweigh the rights of one million people in Ottawa to live peacefully, free of harassment and chaos in their own homes." (February 11, 2022 – press conference)

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Exports to the United States accounted for 73% of all exports in 2020. The total value of goods traded by the US and Canada in 2020 was equivalent to nearly 30% of Canadian GDP ([Trade Data Online](#), Statcan table 36100104).